

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for using a limited input keypad to search for data contained in an electronic device, the limited input keypad comprising a plurality of keys, each of which is an alphanumeric key that is identifiable by a unique number and a corresponding subset of an alphabet, the method comprising:

storing a plurality of text strings and a corresponding plurality of numeric strings, wherein each of the plurality of numeric strings is formed by matching each individual letter contained in a text string with a corresponding number located on the same alphanumeric key;

receiving a first portion of a query via activation of a first alphanumeric key by a user of the limited input keypad;

searching the stored plurality of numeric strings for identifying a first set of numeric string having strings, each of which has in a first position, a first number that corresponds to the unique number on the activated first alphanumeric key;

using the first set of numeric strings to identify a corresponding first set of text strings, the first set of text strings including a desired text string that is an object of the search;

receiving a second portion of the query via activation of a second alphanumeric key by the user of the limited input keypad;

performing a further search on the plurality of numeric strings for identifying a second set of numeric string having strings, each of which has in the first position, the first number that corresponds to the unique number on the activated first alphanumeric key, and in an adjacent position, a second number that corresponds to the unique number on the activated second alphanumeric key; and

using the second set of numeric strings to identify a corresponding second set of text strings, wherein the second set of text strings a) contains a fewer number of text strings than the first set of text strings, and b) includes the desired text string, and

~~using the identified second numeric string to identify the corresponding text string associated with the identified second numeric string, and use the identified corresponding text string to provide to the user, data contained in the electronic device.~~

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the plurality of text strings and the corresponding plurality of numeric strings as a table.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the storing as a table comprises:
storing each of the plurality of text strings in respective rows in a first column of the table; and
storing each of the corresponding plurality of numeric strings in corresponding respective rows in a second column of the table.

8-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A data searching system, comprising:
a limited input keypad comprising a plurality of keys, each of which is an alphanumeric key identifiable by a unique number and a corresponding subset of an alphabet;
a storage device for storing a plurality of text strings and a corresponding plurality of numeric strings; wherein each of the plurality of numeric strings is formed by matching each individual letter contained in a text string with a corresponding number located on the same alphanumeric key;

a display device for displaying ~~a search result comprising data associated with at least one of the plurality of text strings~~ a desired text string; and

a processor ~~responsive~~ configured to perform a search on the stored plurality of numeric strings in response to a query that is initiated by activation of a first alphanumeric key followed by activation of a second alphanumeric key, by performing a search on the stored plurality of

~~numeric strings, and providing and provide to the display, the a first search result, after detecting a first numeric string that comprising a first set of text strings that is identified by detecting a first set of numeric strings, each of which contains the unique number of the activated first alphanumeric key in a first position of the first numeric string, followed by providing to the display, a second search result comprising a second set of text strings that is identified by detecting a second set of numeric strings, each of which contains the unique number of the activated first alphanumeric key in the first position of the numeric string and the unique number of the second alphanumeric key in a second position of the numeric string, and wherein the second set of text strings a) contains a fewer number of text strings than the first set of text strings, and b) includes the desired text string, and identifying therefrom, a corresponding text string corresponding to the first numeric string.~~

26-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the storage device comprises a table for storing a mapping between the plurality of text strings and the corresponding plurality of numeric strings.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the table comprises:
rows in a first column of the table for storing each of the plurality of text strings; and
corresponding rows in a second column of the table for storing each of the plurality of numeric strings.

32-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) A method to search for data contained in an electronic device by recognizing a string of letters wherein each letter contained in the string of letters is inputtable into the electronic device via a limited input keypad, the limited input keypad

comprising at least one alphanumeric key that combinedly represents a unique number and a corresponding subset of an alphabet, the method comprising:

populating a lookup table by mapping the string of letters to a string of numbers, the mapping comprising:

identifying depression of a first alphanumeric key on the keypad, wherein the first alphanumeric key is selected to correspond to a first letter in the string of letters;

storing a first number that is the same as the unique number associated with the depressed first alphanumeric key;

identifying depression of a second alphanumeric key on the keypad, wherein the second alphanumeric key is selected to correspond to a second letter in the string of letters; and

storing a second number that is the same as the unique number associated with the depressed second alphanumeric key, wherein the second number is stored along with the first number, and wherein the combination of the first and second numbers comprises the string of numbers that enables a subsequent number search for recognizing a subsequent entry of the string of letters via the limited input keypad, and locating thereon, data associated with the recognized string of letters.

38. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising:
completing the mapping by storing each of the numbers corresponding to each of the letters in the string of letters; and

using the lookup table for recognizing a subsequent entry of the string of letters into the limited input keypad, the recognizing comprising:

identifying subsequent depression of the first alphanumeric key on the keypad;
searching the lookup table to locate the first number associated with the first alphanumeric key;

identifying subsequent depression of the second alphanumeric key on the keypad;
searching the lookup table to locate the second number associated with the second alphanumeric key; and

recognizing from the combination of first and second numbers, the combination of the first and second letters that comprise the string of letters.

39. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising:
displaying the combination of the first and second letters to indicate the presence of a potential match in the lookup table.
40. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
displaying all letters in the string of letters upon recognizing an exact match in the string of numbers contained in the lookup table.
41. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising:
populating the lookup table by mapping a plurality of additional letter strings to a corresponding plurality of additional number strings.
42. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising:
displaying at least one letter from one of the additional letter strings as a potential match during the subsequent entry of the string of letter into the limited input keypad.
43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, further comprising:
displaying duplicate matches that exist in the lookup table.
44. (Cancelled)
45. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[44]] 1, wherein the ~~identified second~~ numeric desired text string is a name of a contact stored in the electronic device.
46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the data associated with the name of the contact comprises at least one of a) a phone number, and b) an address.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the plurality of text strings corresponds to names of a contact list stored in the electronic device, and the data associated with each of the names is stored together with the names in the table.
- 48-49. (Cancelled)
50. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~48~~ 25, wherein the ~~identified second numeric~~ desired text string is a name of a contact stored in the electronic device.
51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the data associated with the name of the contact comprises at least one of a) a phone number, and b) an address.
52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the plurality of text strings corresponds to names of a contact list stored in the electronic device, and the data associated with each of the names is stored together with the names in the table.
53. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein a first alphanumeric key of the plurality of keys corresponds to a number “2” and a subset “ABC” of the alphabet, and further wherein a second alphanumeric key of the plurality of keys corresponds to a number “3” and a subset “DEF” of the alphabet.